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CZECHOSLOVAK PLAN FULFILLMENT IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1954

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Industrial Production

During the first half of 1954, certain adjustments in the Czechoslovak gross production plan were made in accordance with inventories of industrial raw materials, [semifinished?] materials, and finished products. The adjusted gross industrial production plan was fulfilled in the first half of 1954 as follows:

<u>Ministry</u>	<u>Fulfillment (%)</u>
Fuel and Power	102
Fuel Branch only	104
Metallurgy and Ore Mines	99.5
Chemical Industry	102
Engineering	100
Construction	104
Forestry and Wood Products	100.5
Light Industry	103
Food Industry	99.4
Industrial Enterprises of the Ministries of Local Economy	111
Industrial Enterprises of Other Ministries and Central Organs	106
Producer Cooperatives	103

Production of the following industrial products during the first half of 1954 was greater than planned: hard coal (kamenne uhli), brown coal (hnede uhli), petroleum, illuminating gas, gasoline, aluminum, cold-rolled strip steel, Diesel marine engines, vertical lathes, presses, forging machines, coal chutes for mines, pick-hammers, tractors, tractor plows, steam locomotives, autobuses, trolley buses, commercial fertilizers, polyvinylchloride, viscose rayon and "silon" fibers, paints and enamels, truck and automobile tires, penicillin, refractory materials, asbestos cement roofing, flat glass, and others.

The production plan was also exceeded in the following varieties of food and consumer goods: rendered pork lard, canned fish and fish products, sugar, soft cheeses, chocolate, chocolate candy, fine wheat baked goods and durable

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baked goods, patterned and printed dress textiles, calicoes, twills, satins, woolen textiles, cheesecloth, rubber and leather footwear, leather gloves, purses, oilcloth, rubber toys, soap, furniture, electric stoves, gas heaters, sewing machines, electric washers, large baby buggies, and other consumer items.

The production plan was not fulfilled in the following categories: electric power, metallurgical coke, iron ore, manganese ore, pig iron, rolled materials, sodium hydroxide, soda ash, cord silk, steam and water turbines, freight cars, automobiles, mine loaders, roller bearings, agricultural machinery, metal houseware, razor blades, cement, brick, lime, tile, railroad ties, furniture, paper, outer clothing, porcelain plates and canning jars, pork and beef meats, and milk and butter. Specific local administrations also failed to fulfill their brick and tile production quotas.

#### Industrial Production Increase

Gross industrial production during the first half of 1954 was 3.5 percent greater and [consumer?] goods production was 5.2 percent greater than in the first half of 1953.

The following table shows the increase in production of specific products in the first half of 1954 over production in the same period of 1953, including those products for which the plan was not fulfilled:

<u>Product</u>	<u>Increase Over First Half of 1953 (%)</u>
Electricity	108
Illuminating gas	107
Hard coal	108
Brown coal	108
Crude oil	110
Coke	105
Pyrite concentrates	130
Pig iron	102
Raw steel	102
Ferroalloys	124
Steam turbines (pieces)	165
Diesel engines	138
Metal cutting machinery	108
Center lathes	111
Vertical lathes	138
Drills	125

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<u>Product</u>	<u>Increase Over First Half of 1953 (%)</u>
Planing shaping machines	143
Milling machines	126
Grinders	150
Mine loaders	175
Coal chutes for use in mines	2.1 times
Caterpillar excavators	184
Agriculture machinery, total	184
Tractor-powered mowers and cutting machines	4.2 times
Threshers	2.3 times
Tractors	130
Superphosphates	114
Milled phosphates	2.4 times
Sulfuric acid	108
Sodium hydroxide	117
Polyvinylchloride	115
Viscose rayon	107
Cord silk [synthetic]	120
"Silon"	157
Cement	107
Bricks	107
Tiles	116
Prefabricated construction blocks	137
Pork lard, raw	110
Tallow, raw	133
Fish products	121
Edible fats	102
Edible oils	148
Butter	103

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<u>Product</u>	<u>Increase Over First Half of 1953 (%)</u>
Soft cheeses	2.6 times
Confections (nonchocolate)	122
Fine wheat bakery products	128
Grape wine	194
Leather footwear	107
Rubber footwear	107
Enamelware [household]	113
Cameras	120
Razor blades	135
Furniture	112
Electric stoves	147
Gas ranges	126
Gas heaters	3.2 times
Electric vacuum cleaners	172
Electric refrigerators	2.6 times
Electric washers	4.9 times

Production of various new machines and equipment was begun during the first half of 1954, and a much greater variety of consumer goods was offered, including several hundred more kinds of textile and clothing items, 60 more kinds of leather shoes, and 27 additional kinds of rubber footwear.

A number of new products and a more varied assortment of confections, frozen foods, and dairy and bakery products were produced.

The number of employed persons, as well as work productivity, was greater in the first half of 1954 than in the same period of 1953. Although absenteeism was less than in the same period of 1953, it remained quite high, especially in enterprises of the Ministries of Fuel and Power and of Construction, and the iron ore and manganese ore mines. Mechanization of difficult and dangerous work continued but did not progress satisfactorily, mainly because of lack of proper attention by the various ministries. Machinery, equipment, and replacement parts were not furnished at times specified in agreements.

Full use of machinery and equipment was not made. Although more machinery was provided, particularly in enterprises of the Ministry of Fuel and Power, coal combines and cutters were idle; the Ministry of Engineering did not fully utilize certain turning-lathes.

Economizing in industrial production lagged and planned reduction of production costs was not reached. Production costs for the first half of 1954 were only one percent less than those for the same period of 1953. Certain

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industrial enterprises, particularly in the Ministry of Metallurgical Industry and Ore Mines, and in the Ministry of Engineering, did not succeed in eliminating their high percentage of rejects.

Some ministries, such as the Ministry of Engineering, did not comply with the order to lower consistently the abnormal surplus inventory of raw materials, and in fact increased inventories during the last few months of the first half of 1954.

Some enterprises continued above-norm consumption of materials, fuel, and power, overdrew wage funds, and did not maintain financial discipline. A number of enterprises did not turn over to the state treasury the planned financial profits.

#### Agriculture

Spring field work was delayed and some crops were planted later than in 1953. The seeding plan was fulfilled 98 percent and the goal of working all arable land in the first half of 1954 was not fulfilled. Crop cultivation, however, was performed more rapidly and satisfactorily than in 1953.

Harvesting of forage proceeded better in the first half of 1954 than in 1953, with the exception of permanent hay meadows where harvesting was delayed.

In the socialist sector, particularly on state farms, spring work was done more rapidly, partially because of better use of modern methods. In the socialist sector 72.3 percent of the total plantings of wheat, barley, and oats was sown in narrow rows, whereas in 1953 only 48 percent of this area was sown in this manner.

The MTS fulfilled their spring work plan 111 percent. MTS total work was 5.2 percent greater than in the first half of 1953; grain seeding, 20 percent greater; potato planting, 20 percent greater; manure-spreading, 42 percent greater; and spreading of commercial fertilizers, 17 percent greater.

MTS stations had more equipment and machinery and their preparation of machinery for spring field work was better than in 1953. The MTS used 6.5 percent more tractors than in 1953. However, all tractors were not fully utilized; the percentage quoted did not compensate for the greater number of tractors available. Tractor breakdowns, however, were only one half those of the first half of 1953.

During the first half year of 1954, the following machinery was turned over to agriculture: 953 wheeled tractors, 1,044 caterpillar tractors, 589 grain combines, 2,930 tractor-drawn cutting machines, 2,312 tractor-drawn grain drills, 804 tractor-drawn five-bottom plows, 885 three-bottom plows with colters, 1,057 tractor-drawn manure spreaders, and 2,072 tractor-drawn fertilizer spreaders. However, the agricultural machinery delivery plan was not fulfilled and many deliveries were made late.

Delivery of commercial fertilizers to the agricultural sector was 22 percent greater in the first half of 1954 than in the first half of 1953, and included 33 percent more nitrates, 18 percent more phosphates, and 18 percent more potassium. Deliveries were also more prompt than in 1953.

Livestock production was unsatisfactory. The number of livestock, both cattle and hogs, was lower at the end of the first half of 1954 than in 1953. Improvement was registered in the live weights of animals on hand and better care of calves and young pigs. The production plan for meat, milk, and eggs was unfulfilled.

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To secure better agricultural production, means were taken to obtain additional workers for agriculture. During the winter 1953-1954, agricultural, zoological, and mechanization of agriculture courses were offered in JZD (Jednotne zemedelske druzstvo, Unified Agricultural Cooperative) schools. The number of people attending the courses was 2.3 times greater than in 1953.

During the first half of 1954, the government gave additional financial grants and credits to JZD members and individual farmers for the purchase of seed and commercial fertilizer.

The 1954 reforestation plan was fulfilled 83 percent during the first half of 1954; 80,000 hectares of land were reforested; which is 500 hectares more than during the first half of 1953.

#### Transportation and Communications

Freight moved by rail during the first half of 1954 was 3.2 percent greater than in the first half 1953. The average weight of goods carried per freight car increased 1.5 percent and the average distance transported increased 3.2 percent. The average weight per freight train increased 6.2 percent; this was achieved by increasing the number of single-destination trains or by increasing the number of freight cars per train. In June 1954, the number of single-destination trains was 90 percent greater and the number of units carried by each train was 115 percent greater than in January 1954.

The average turn-around time of a freight car during the first half of 1954 was 18 percent greater than in the same period in 1953. Planned turn-around time was not achieved. Loading and unloading time was not balanced properly. Sundays and holidays are not sufficiently utilized for unloading of freight.

Spotted cars are left too long in stations. Mechanization of unloading and loading operations is unsatisfactory.

During the first half of 1954, the railroads used more fuel than was specified in the norms. There was more freight car damage in the first half of 1954 than in the same period in 1953. The greatest number of damaged cars was reported in regions in which the Bratislava, Usti nad Labem, and Ostrava railroads operate.

One percent more passengers were transported in the first half of 1954 than in the first half of 1953.

The CSAD (Ceskoslovenska automobilni doprava, Czechoslovak Automobile Transport) transported 16 percent more freight in the first half of 1954 than during the same period in 1953. The average truck load increased 7.7 percent and pay loads were hauled over 66 percent of the total kilometers of road traveled. Repairs were made on 24 percent of all trucks. CSAD buses transported the same number of passengers in the first half of 1954 as in the first half of 1953, even though inclement weather temporarily disrupted service on some lines. New buses as well as new bus lines were added during the first half of 1954. The number of new bus lines increased 10.2 percent.

As a result of poor coordination between railroad and water freight service, 20 percent less freight was hauled by water in the first half of 1954 than in the first half of 1953.

Air passenger transportation was 3.6 percent more efficient during the first half of 1954 than during the same period of 1953.

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Communication facilities were increased. Installation of wired radio continued and additional MTS, JZDs and state farms were linked by telephone. Television broadcasting was increased.

#### Construction

The investment construction plan in the first half of 1954 conformed roughly to the plan for the first half of 1953, and was fulfilled better than in 1953. Completed investments were 6 percent higher and investments in the agricultural sector were doubled; investments for the construction of housing units were 40 percent higher.

Although all the goals set for it during the first half of 1954 were not attained, construction activity (including that of the Ministry of Construction and other ministries) was 6 percent higher than for the comparable period in 1953. This increase was mainly because productivity of work was 8 percent higher than in 1953.

More heavy earth-moving machinery was used; the Ministry of Construction received 3 percent more steam shovels, 5 percent more scrapers, and 25 percent more dump trucks. However, the utilization of machinery was unsatisfactory.

Introduction of new methods in construction was continued. The cost of production was lower in the first half of 1954 than in the comparable period of 1953, yet the planned reduction was not attained.

#### Increase in the Standard of Living and Cultural Activities

Employment during the first half of 1954 was increased. The number of white-collar and blue-collar workers rose by more than one percent. By the end of the first half of 1954, women accounted for 35.5 percent of the total labor force.

The reduction of consumer prices early in April amounted to an average annual saving of 5.6 billion crowns, and affected 53,000 varieties of goods.

Retail turnover was greater during the first half of 1954 than during the first half of 1953. The retail turnover plan for the first half of 1954 was exceeded by state trade enterprises but was not fulfilled by cooperative trade outlets. The sale of industrial goods increased. The sale of textiles was 30 percent greater than in the first half of 1953; shoes, 18 percent greater; and bicycles, 7 percent greater. In the first half of 1954, 5.5 times as many washing machines were sold, 6 times as many refrigerators, and 2 times as much building material.

Insofar as quality and variety of products are concerned consumer demand was not met.

In the first half of 1954 butter sales were 41 percent greater than in the first half of 1953; sugar, 20 percent greater; synthetic fats, 3 percent greater; coffee, 72 percent greater, and wine, 14 percent greater. There was three times as much rice and twice as much canned meat. Demands for meat and lard were not met during the first half of 1954 despite increased imports of these items. Underfulfillment of the livestock production plan was responsible.

During the first half year of 1954, the turnover in communal catering establishments had increased even though the plan was not fulfilled.



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By remodeling, rebuilding, and consolidating old sales outlets in the cities, 568 new and better-stocked sales centers and 3 new stores have been opened in 1954. In rural areas there are 918 more sales outlets than in 1953. Deposits in savings banks during the first half of 1954 increased by 511 million crowns.

During the first half of 1954, some 8,000 housing units were completed and made available to workers. Other units are under construction. For example, the Ministry of Construction, whose share of the total housing construction activity amounts to almost 60 percent, has 24,000 housing units under construction.

New laundries, cleaning and dyeing establishments, and public baths were placed in use. New services were instituted, such as clothing repair stores, minor laundry repair services in laundries, house-cleaning services, information services, and increased evening and Saturday services. However, the National Committees (Narodni vybory) still did not satisfactorily carry out the government decree on increasing the living standard of workers, particularly through development and improvement of communal services.

Urban transportation service was improved; during the first half of 1954, 3.8 percent more passengers were hauled than during the same period of 1953.

Charges for repairs and services were also reduced, amounting to a saving to the inhabitants of 280 million crowns.

Public health services continued to improve. During the first half of 1954, the number of beds in hospitals and maternity homes increased by more than 1,900; and in specialized therapeutic and nursing institutions the increase was almost 1,800. Three additional hospitals and eight maternity homes were opened. Health centers were established in 36 enterprises and the number of children cared for in creches reached more than 24,000.

Almost 10,000 pupils completed the course of study in 11-year middle schools and more than 27,000 pupils finished specialized schools. Included in the latter figure are 8,800 pupils in industrial schools and 3,800 in agricultural schools.

More than 5,600 Czechoslovak citizens will complete their college studies this year; 3,300 of them are specializing in technical studies.

In the first half of 1954, the number of theater patrons reached 6.6 million, a 12-percent increase over the first half of 1953. Over 76 million tickets were sold by motion-picture theaters. During the first half of 1954, 237 films were completed, of which five were films lasting all evening. During the first half of 1954, 20 million copies of 2,300 books were published. The number of licensed radio listeners increased by more than 40,000. The number of television receivers in use also increased.

#### Foreign Trade

Foreign-trade turnover during the first half of 1954 was 8.4 percent greater than in the similar period of 1953.

Meat imports during the first half of 1954 were twice those of the first half of 1953; butter imports were 36 percent greater; fish, 84 percent greater; southern fruit, 73 percent greater; and wool, 10 percent greater.

Economic cooperation with the People's Democracies was improved and commercial contacts with capitalistic states were expanded.

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